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has regular courses in French, German, etc., using the phonograph, sending records for study, and criticising records made by the pupil. At the Annapolis Naval Academy gramophone plates<sup>2</sup> are used with great success for practicing outside of class hours. A Berlin company is just issuing an English series. The selection of just what is to be recorded on the specimen cylinders, or plates, is a matter that must be settled by pedagogical experience.

E. W. SCRIPTURE.

*Berlin, Germany.*

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### THE NEW ENGLAND MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION.

In response to the following call by the undersigned, about two hundred teachers met at the Girls' Latin School, Boston :

Boston, December 1st, 1903.

All persons interested in the teaching of modern languages are invited to meet at the Girls' Latin School, Copley Square, Boston, on Saturday, December 12th, at 10.30 a. m., for the purpose of forming an Association.

There will be addresses by representatives of leading colleges and secondary schools, upon the need of such an organization and its purpose. It is requested that notice of this meeting be extended to all who might be interested.

Maro S. Brooks, Brookline High School; Mary S. Bruce, Newton High School; Isabelle C. Dewey, Lynn English High School; Josiah M. Kagan, Roxbury High School; Jonathan Leonard, Somerville English High School; Jane A. McLellan, Dorchester High School; Annie L. Merritt, Melrose High School, William B. Snow, English High School,

Mr. Brooks presided and Mr. Snow acted as secretary. After a discussion of about two hours, during which numerous phases of the entire modern language field were touched upon, the new society came into being. The aims of this new organization appear to be of a somewhat more practical nature than those covered by our National, Central, or Pacific Coast Associations. The intention is to bridge over partly, at least, the gap in the teaching of modern languages be-

tween the colleges and the secondary schools. Although it was evident that French and German were the subjects particularly contemplated, nevertheless, the assembly was thoroughly representative of modern languages in general. Teachers of Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, and English, were present and fully alive to the interests of their specialty. The representatives of these different spheres of modern language activity came not only from various and distant parts of Massachusetts, but from the adjoining States as well. Numerous letters in response to the call were brought to the attention of the audience by the chairman. Among these replies, from those unable to be present, words of encouragement were received from President Eliot, of Harvard University, President Pritchett, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Professor Grandgent, of Harvard, and Professor Fay, of Tufts.

Dr. H. C. Bierwirth, of the German department of Harvard, was the first speaker. He strongly advocated closer relations between college teachers and secondary school teachers. He thought that the results obtained by many students now in his classes were hardly as good, on the whole, as those obtained by many students a few years ago. He attributed the falling off of successful results partly to a lack of sufficient knowledge of English grammar. It seemed only proper that the attention of the teachers of English should be drawn to this deficiency. In this way, the teaching of the principles of elementary German grammar might be considerably lightened. Dr. Bierwirth's ideas met with general approval, and teachers of English who feel interested to join the Association may be sure of an especially cordial welcome.

Mr. Snow of the English High School, Boston, emphasized the need of differentiating the aims of the Association from those of existing organizations for promoting language study. Meetings should be held at least once a month. They should be informal and give opportunity for every possible expression of opinion on topics relating to the modern languages themselves as well as to the teaching of the latter. No set papers on learned subjects should be read at any meeting, monthly, or annual;—rather, a free interchange in regard to one's own observations in teaching the

<sup>2</sup> The Johns Hopkins University has introduced these plates for undergraduate work.—A. M. E.

languages, or on the preparation of text-books, or upon recent events in connection with the literature of the subject. To this end, possibly, a central lodge might be established in Boston, which should contain recent books and periodicals bearing upon educational questions related to the study of language or literature in some of their many forms. It had been observed that it not infrequently happened that valuable contributions on these topics were not to be had, at the best libraries, until long after their publication. Much information could be secured in this way by those unable to profit by the advantage of travel. In time, branches of the central lodge might be established elsewhere,—somewhat on the principle of the circulating libraries. Some such system would naturally encourage the secondary teachers to do original work, such as investigation of methods abroad, or some special research along the lines of their particular activity.

Mr. Snow's ideas were still farther developed by Professors Vogel and Rambeau, of the M. I. T. Remarks of an encouraging nature, which reflected well the enthusiasm of those present, were made by Mr. F. D. Aldrich, of Worcester Academy; Mr. J. S. Ford, of Phillips Exeter Academy; Mrs. Isabel C. Dewey, of the Lynn English High School; Miss Clapp, of the Medford High School; Miss Isabel C. Hines, of the Dedham High School; Mrs. Burton and Miss Bachelder, of the Cambridge High School; Miss Elizabeth Hough, of Boston; Miss Jane A. McLellan, of the Dorchester High School; Miss M. P. Whitney, of New Haven, Conn.; Mr. C. A. A. Currier, of the M. I. T.; Mr. L. W. Arnold, of Springfield; Mr. S. Willard Clary, of the modern language text-book department of a leading publishing house, and by Professors Josselyn and Geddes, of Boston University.

The assembly then voted article by article upon a constitution, a draft of which had previously been presented to the members. The membership fee is two dollars a year. All persons interested in modern language study—whether teachers or not—are invited to help along the cause by becoming members. The following officers of the Association were elected: President, W. B. Snow; Vice-presidents, Dr. H. C. Bierwirth, Professor J. Geddes, Jr., Professor Frank Vogel; Secretary,

M. S. Brooks; Treasurer, Miss Jane P. McLellan; Board of Directors, J. S. Ford, L. W. Arnold, Miss Sarah A. Clapp, Miss Marion P. Whitney, Miss Elizabeth Souther. The officers will meet in Boston University on January 2nd to name the dates of Association meetings, and to select topics of discussion for the immediate future. The annual meeting will be held in May.

J. GEDDES, JR.

*Boston University.*

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## GERMAN LITERATURE.

*Aus dem deutschen Dichterwald.* Favorite German Poems, edited with Notes and Vocabulary by J. H. DILLARD, Professor in Tulane University of Louisiana, formerly Principal of Mary Institute, St. Louis. New York-Cincinnati-Chicago, American Book Company, [1903].

The title "*Aus dem deutschen Dichterwald*," which the editor of our latest lyrical anthology owes to the "happy suggestion" of Dr. Wilhelm Bernhardt; the motto on the title-page; again, the quotation-worn lines prefixed to the collection (p. 16); the here inapposite verses from Schiller on the back of the dedicatory leaf; and, finally, the headings of the four divisions of which the book of seventy-seven poems consists—all these serve as a frank reminder that in the make-up of his poetical reader Professor Dillard adheres rigidly to the established pattern. Recent poetry is strictly ruled out. The sub-title of the second group of poems—and, by the way, "*Alte Freunde*" has not, in this use, the true idiomatic ring—would just as well apply, or nearly as well, to all the selections gathered in the handy, attractive little volume. The editor has confined himself to "the rich literary period extending from the latter part of the eighteenth to about the middle of the nineteenth century," but within these limits, too, he has not gone far afield in search of his material. Yet, though in several instances we may not share his taste and might, perhaps, willingly dispense with Nos. 13, 20, 21, and a few others, nobody will probably quarrel with the statement that "with hardly an exception the